

## Lesson 2: Fakaalofa atu – Hello

25/07/2012 Wednesday

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### ❖ Tangi: Fakaalofa lahi atu ki a mutolu

- Today we are going to launch into our first Vagahau Niue word for Term 3. But before we do, we still have a couple of important language and cultural rules to share with you.
- The first of these is that, speakers of the Niue language avoid the word Niuean, preferring instead
  - ✚ **Vagahau Niue** – for the language,
  - ✚ **Tagata Niue** – for the people, and
  - ✚ **Aga fakamotu** – for the culture of Niue

### ❖ Rina: When speaking with older people or to people in high-status positions, it is considered polite in **aga fakamotu** to avoid looking them in the eye. You lower your gaze to show respect.

### ❖ Gaylene: Cultural Knowledge **Fakalilifu (Showing Respect)**

- When greeting and saying thank you to older people or to people in higher status positions than you, you add **lahi** to a statement. This is particularly important when learning to say hello today. Listen to the following two examples and see if you can hear the word lahi:
  - ✚ Fakaalofa **lahi** atu ki a koe, ma faiaoga. Greetings to you, teacher.
  - ✚ Fakaaue **lahi**, ma faiaoga. Thank you very much, teacher



Sharleen: Fakaalofa atu ki a mutolu – Greetings! Which brings us to our language lesson for today. In its simplest form Hello is Fakaalofa atu. More formally it is Fakaalofa **lahi** atu. But...

- When greeting one person, Tagata Niue say
  - ✚ Fakaalofa atu **ki a koe**. Greetings to you (one person)
  - ✚ Say after me –
    - ✚ Fakaalofa atu
    - ✚ **ki a koe**
- When greeting two people, Tagata Niue say
  - ✚ Fakaalofa atu **ki a mua**. Greetings to you (two people)
  - ✚ Say after me –
    - ✚ Fakaalofa atu
    - ✚ **Ki a mua**
- When greeting three or more people, Tagata Niue say
  - ✚ Fakaalofa atu **ki a mutolu**. Greetings to three or more people
  - ✚ Say after me –
    - ✚ Fakaalofa atu
    - ✚ **Ki a mutolu**



❖ Whāea Jacque: The Significance of the Red Bananas on your language card

- The first European to sight Niue was Captain James Cook in **1774**
- Cook made three attempts to land on the island but was refused permission to do so by the Polynesian inhabitants
- He named the island "Savage Island" because the people of Niue who "greeted" him were painted in what appeared to Cook and his crew to be blood
- However, the substance on their teeth was that of the **hulahula**, a native red banana